

Students: Take turns reading the sentence and explaining to the group the meaning of the underlined idiom. If your sentences has a vocabulary word in italics, explain the meaning of the word and give an example of how it is used.

1. The candidate is in hot water for his *inflammatory* comments on immigration.
2. The situation came to a head when the newspapers printed his remarks.
3. I'm not sure there is a solution to the problem, but we'll put our heads together and see what we come up with.
4. I listened to the lecture on particle physics, but most of it was way over my head.
5. If this project is ever going to get off the ground, we will need more money for research.
6. I think the president wants to put the brakes on the development of more *stealth* aircraft because he's not sure the need is real.
7. I'm beat. Let's call it a day.
8. I have a hunch that we will find the answer we're looking for by going over the latest test results.
9. How is your dad doing? He's not out of the woods yet, but the doctors are *cautiously optimistic* about his recovery.
10. Ken insists on continuing to drive though his license is expired. I feel he is skating on thin ice. If he is caught, he could lose his license permanently.
11. The police have been searching for the missing woman since yesterday, but it seems she disappeared without a trace.
12. The senator voted to cut benefits for government retirees. Now he is retiring and finds his benefits won't cover his medical expenses. What goes around comes around.
13. I'm going to buy some new tires because once I get the money to buy Dad's old car, it will have to have new tires. Aren't you putting the cart before the horse?
14. All of these *entry level* jobs pay so poorly. I want to make more money. In due time. You can't expect to make a great salary right from the start.
15. Do you think we should have a lot of kids or just a few? Let's cross that bridge when we come to it. We aren't even married yet.
16. I'm going to ask the captain if I can get off a little early tonight. I know I'm supposed to stay til 6, but I'd like to leave by 4 or 5. The captain goes by the book, so I don't think he's going to agree to that.
17. The boss was mad that I went over his head. He made me promise that from now on I would go through the proper channels.
18. I doubt that Chris will behave any better once he is married. After all, a leopard doesn't change his spots.
19. Jim retired several years ago, but he still gets up every morning at 6 and gets dressed. Old habits die hard.
20. There is no moon out tonight. It's pitch black out there.

21. Sherry got a raw deal. The company let her go because she was the last hired, but she was one of the best employees they've ever had.
22. I'm going to play the lottery this week. I know I'm going to win. I can feel it in my bones.

DISCUSS IN YOUR GROUP:

1-Many companies have a "last hired, first fired" policy when an economic downturn means they have to let employees go. Do you think this is fair? If you ran your own company how would you decide who goes and who stays?

2-Talk about a habit that you have. Do you have any bad habits you'd like to be rid of?

3-If someone "takes advantage of you", they use you to benefit themselves. Consider this story. Gloria had gone out with Ken for several months when she began to wonder if he was taking advantage of her. He only took her out when he was going to a function where he wanted to impress his friends or business associates. Gloria is a beautiful woman and Ken enjoyed the attention he got when she was on his arm. But Gloria noticed that Ken seemed to have no interest in spending time alone with her. What do you think? Was Gloria being taken advantage of? Have you ever felt someone was taking advantage of you?

4-If you are "taken to the cleaners" you lose a great deal of money through a bad situation. Consider this story.

Bob won several thousand dollars in the lottery. Bob was not very well educated and had never had much money. When an acquaintance offered to help Bob invest his money in the stock market, Bob agreed. He wanted to see his money grow and knew it wouldn't grow much sitting in the bank. Unfortunately, Bob found out a couple of years later that the acquaintance had not invested his money at all, but had used it to buy himself a nice new yacht. Bob lost over half of his winnings before he realized that he had been taken to the cleaners.

5-Do you feel that you have good intuition? Do you often have a sense that something will happen before it does? Who is the most intuitive person in your family?